

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

**Pacific Northwest Maritime Industries Education Alliance (PAC Maritime) –
Washington and Oregon**

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the Pacific Northwest Maritime Industries Education Alliance (PAC Maritime) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its dual-state, multi-institutional leadership in vessel operations, marine technical trades, and commercial fishing workforce development across the Pacific Northwest. Led by Skagit Valley College, PAC Maritime unites community colleges across Washington and Oregon alongside specialized mariner training entities to power a regional maritime economy generating \$36 billion in annual revenue and supporting 129,000 direct jobs.

Operational Footprint & Institutional Consortium

PAC Maritime organizes afloat and ashore workforce training across a bi-state network 8 strategic institutional nodes sharing the Pacific Ocean and Columbia River waterways:

- **Skagit Valley College (Lead):** Administrative lead; operates ABYC/NMEA-accredited Marine Maintenance Technology (MMT), composite vacuum infusion suites, and WABO-certified welding facilities.
- **North Seattle College:** Advanced electronics and industrial automation hub featuring mechatronics/PLC labs, fiber optic fusion splicing, and avionics diagnostic rigs.
- **Seattle Central College:** Operates Seattle Maritime Academy's USCG-approved 26,000 sq. ft. Ballard waterfront facility with full-mission bridge/engine simulators and live training vessels.
- **South Seattle College:** Operates the Harbor Island Training Center co-located directly inside Vigor Shipyard, delivering industrial FCAW/SMAW welding, CNC plasma cutting, and WABO testing.
- **Clark College:** Columbia River industrial trade engine providing multi-process AWS structural welding, physical metallurgy, and Caterpillar/Cummins heavy diesel mechanics.
- **Peninsula College:** Olympic Peninsula coastal node delivering AWS D1.2 aluminum welding, outboard mechanic repair, and IMO-aligned marine oil spill response.
- **Portland Community College:** Operates the 4,000 sq. ft. Swan Island Maritime Welding Training Center co-located inside Vigor Shipyard, delivering 16 stackable AWS/NAVSEA trade certificates.
- **Crawford Nautical Training (Eat on the Wild Side):** Historic mariner licensing institute and official USDOL Registered Apprenticeship sponsor ("The Inbreaker Program" RAPIDS Code 1024CB).

Comprehensive Afloat & Ashore Career Credentials

- **Afloat Credentials:** USCG Master 100/200 Ton, OUPV Captain's License, Designated Duty

Engineer (DDE 1000–4000 HP), Able Seaman (AB Special), QMED-Oiler/Fireman, RFPEW/RFPNW watchstanding, Lifeboatman/PSC, and STCW basic safety endorsements.

- **Ashore & Trade Credentials:** Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, AWS D1.1/D1.2 structural steel/aluminum codes, WABO plate/pipe welder certifications, ABYC master systems, NMEA 2000, ACMA composite vacuum infusion, FOA fiber optics, and FCC commercial operator licenses.

Workforce & Regional Impact

PAC Maritime feeds an industrial ecosystem comprising public shipyards, commercial yards, passenger ferries, and commercial fishing fleets.

- **Nation's First Commercial Fishing Apprenticeship:** Partnered with the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union (DSFU) and Washington State Labor Council to launch *Eat on the Wild Side / DSFU Inbreaker Program*, the nation's first USDOL-registered commercial fishing apprenticeship.
- **Shipyard & Fleet Placement Trajectories:** Direct graduate pipelines feeding Washington State Ferries (largest ferry system in the U.S.), Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Vigor Industrial (Portland/Seattle/Vancouver), Dakota Creek Industries, Nichols Bros Boat Builders, All American Marine, Greenbrier Marine, and NOAA.
- **Re-Entry & Displaced Worker Pipelines:** Partners with Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. and Vigor Industrial to provide structured re-entry trade pathways and workforce navigators for non-traditional and displaced career-changers.
- **K-12 STEM & Secondary Outreach:** Integrates secondary dual-credit welding, the Skagit Valley College Scallywags media channel, Maritime High School (Highline School District), and the National SeaPerch underwater ROV challenge.

Strategic Outlook

PAC Maritime anchors Pacific Northwest defense logistics, commercial vessel overhaul, and marine decarbonization, including local construction of hydrogen fuel cell vessels (*Sea Change*), USCG over-the-horizon craft, and U.S. Navy workboat contracts. Serving as the lead intermediary for Career Connect Washington, the consortium coordinates statewide maritime workforce planning across shipbuilding, underway operations, and commercial fishing to secure national defense readiness and ocean commerce.